

In the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Claims 1-125 (**Canceled**).

126. (**Currently Amended**) A method for increasing elastin content in a region of skin of a subject, the method comprising applying topically a composition consisting essentially of one or more zinc-containing components in admixture with a dermatologically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an elastin-increasing effective amount, to the region of skin of the subject,

wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is selected from the group consisting of zinc acetate, zinc ascorbate, zinc aspartate, zinc butyrate, zinc caproate, zinc caprylate, zinc carbonate, ~~chromate~~, zinc citraconate, zinc citramalate, zinc citrate, zinc EDTA, zinc formate, zinc fumarate, zinc gallate, zinc gluconate, zinc halides, ~~iodate~~, zinc lactate, ~~laurate~~, ~~laureate~~, zinc malate, zinc maleate, zinc malonate, zinc metaphosphate, ~~methanesulfonate~~, zinc monophosphate, ~~myristate~~, zinc nitrate, zinc octoate, ~~oleate~~, zinc orotate, zinc orthophosphate, zinc oxalate, ~~palmitate~~, ~~permanganate~~, ~~phenolsulfonate~~, zinc phosphate, zinc picolinate, zinc propionate, zinc pyrophosphate, zinc salicylate, zinc selenate, ~~stearate~~, zinc succinate, zinc sulfate, zinc sulfonate, zinc tartrate, zinc tetrametaphosphate, ~~titanate~~, ~~transferrin~~, zinc tripolyphosphate, ~~undecylate~~, zinc valerate, zinc amino acid complexes, zinc nucleotide complexes, and mixtures thereof,

wherein said one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration that increases elastin without causing epidermal sloughing and irritation due to zinc,

wherein said concentration is in the range of about 10 μ M to about 1 mM, and

wherein the elastin content in the region of skin is increased in a sufficient amount to treat wrinkles.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc carbonate.
128. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components comprises zinc citrate.

Claims 129-131 **(Canceled)**

132. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 1 mM.
133. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 127, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 1 mM.
134. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 128, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 1 mM.
135. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier ~~and the composition is applied to a site on the skin of the subject.~~
136. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition is applied to one or more sites selected from the group consisting of the face, breasts, buttocks, neck, legs, arms, torso, and furrows or wrinkles in the face, hands or neck.
137. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the composition comprises one or more zinc chelates.
138. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable carrier and further comprises a moisturizer.

Claims 139-164 **(Canceled)**

165. **(New)** The method according to claim 126, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 10 μ M.

166. **(New)** The method according to claim 127, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 10 μ M.
167. **(New)** The method according to claim 128, wherein the one or more zinc-containing components is present in the composition at a concentration of about 10 μ M.